

## Rangeley Region Guides' & Sportsmen's Association

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### Fall 2022

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

By Dave Kretzing

It's that time of year for wonderful words of wisdom from the President...

As I write this, fall has finally turned to winter and the snow is just starting to fall outside my window, but here I sit typing on the computer. It won't be long until all the snowmobiles, skis, ice fishing gear and snow shoes are in full use. I don't know why people want to head south for the winter when there are so many exciting options right outside our front door for the people that live here and those who can only visit for a short time. Once winter is over there is the only truly yucky part of the year known as MUD SEASON, but it passes quickly and then spring is upon us. Everyone is waiting for ice out on the lakes to start fishing and more than a little wagering is going on as to the exact day and time for ice out. When the water finally warms up all the docks and boats go in the water and the summer fun begins. Sadly, too soon the leaves start to change but that brings a wonderful time of year. Cool nights and warm days are perfect to leaf peeping, making one last fly-fishing trip, or taking your dog and shotgun for a little walk down some old logging trail. This all brings me back to sitting here looking out the window watching the snow, wondering how the last year went by so fast and what is to come in the new year.

This past year was a lot busier than the past several. In May we started holding our monthly pot luck dinners. We held these dinners until October when we decided to suspend the meeting over the winter months. Look for the next meeting in May of 2023.

For the first time this year we held a Kids' Fishing Derby in our fishing pond. The number of kids was almost double what we were hoping for. Look for the second annual derby to be even bigger and better.

Our booth at the Third in the Park with Guide's Fries, burgers and hot dogs was another great success. The same cannot be said about the Strawberry Festival. The day

started off great but then the skies opened up and a monsoon hit. Ever try deep frying French fries with rain hitting the hot oil?

The Junior Guide's program and Youth Hunt Breakfast both were well attended this year, so the future for outdoor traditions going forward is looking good.

This year we are raising membership dues by five dollars. As everyone knows the cost of everything has gone up and we have not increased dues for several years. In addition to covering our fixed costs we are looking to make improvements to our gun ranges and add a handicap ramp and porch to the club house.

Just a big reminder, shove, nudge, tap on the shoulder, or kick in the pants... we are a volunteer organization and need all the help we can get with programs and functions. The past several years there has been a wonderful crew of helpers, but it is the same helpers at every function. Even if you can only give an hour or two of your time, it would be a big help.

As always, I'm here to help any way I can with any questions or concerns... and specially to help you volunteer to help.

Dave

#### MOOSELOOKMEGUNTIC LANDLOCKED SALMON DERBY



In June of 2022, RRG&SA held its second Mooselookmeguntic Landlocked Salmon Derby. We entered into this to support DIF&W's goals to improve the harvest of salmon in this body of water, specifically to address "poor salmon growth and condition." The structure of the derby is focused on removing smaller fish with minimal impact to other species such as trout.



We had a tremendous response, both from anglers and sponsors. This year we had fewer boats participate, but we took about the same number of fish.

We would like to specifically thank our sponsors:

**Platinum Sponsors**

Hight Dealerships

**Silver Sponsors**

Oquossoc Marine

Blue Flame Gas

Mike Cerminara Landscaping

**Bronze Sponsors**

Morton & Furbish Insurance Agency

Morton & Furbish Real Estate

Rangeley Lakes Builders Supply

Saddleback

Koob's Garage

Rangeley IGA

Lakes Region Power Systems

Franklin Savings Bank

We could not have held this event without the leadership of the Derby Steering Committee: Dave Kretzing, Jack McNulty, Scott Hatfield, and Dudley Gray. Thank you all for your enthusiasm, creativity, and leadership!



Once again, DIF&W was able to be present and collect an impressive amount of data on the health of the fishery. As most of the analysis of that data occurs over the slower, winter months, we look forward to a debrief of their findings in 2023. At this time, we are planning to better understand our results and impact before we plan our next derby.

**KIDS' FISHING DERBY**

By Dave Kretzing

RRG&SA held its first Kids' Fishing Derby on July 7, 2022. Beautiful weather welcomed eighty-two children with their parents, grandparents, and counselors to the RRG&SA Kids' Fishing Pond located adjacent to the clubhouse on Old Skiway Road in Oquossoc. The children were divided into three age categories. Each group had 30 minutes to catch up to three fish. The fish were then measured and cleaned for the children to take home.



After the competition, the children were treated to a free hotdog lunch. All children were given commemorative RRG&SA medals. Trophies were given to the top three



finishers in each age category. Fifteen children won gift certificates to River's Edge Sport Shop, and one lucky 7-year-old won a lifetime Maine fishing license.



### **STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL**

By Joyce Fay

Congratulations to the top finishers in our age groups:

- Liam Watkin (4-6)
- Broden LeClerc (7-10)
- Gabe Williams (11-15)



The Annual Strawberry Festival started out as a perfect day, but Mother Nature decided to rain on us in the afternoon. We had many returning vendors along with some new local artists and crafters. Mary Hembrow and her team served up our fresh strawberry shortcake with real whipped cream. As always, our grill masters did a great job providing delicious burgers and Guides fries.

Because of the success of this new event and volumes of positive feedback, RRS&GA plans to make this an annual derby. The 2023 Kid's Fishing Derby will be hosted on Thursday July 6, 2023. The format and age groupings will remain the same, but we plan some additional fun activities on the property for the children while they wait for their turn at the pond.



Thank you to Mike Koob and the Rangeley Fire Department for their continued support of our



organization. A special thank you to our wonderful club members who volunteered their time and stuck it out even though they got a little soggy by the end of the day.

The festival is always the second Thursday in July, so mark your calendar for July 13, 2023. We'll plan for better weather! For more info call (207) 864-2651.

### **JUNIOR GUIDE PROGRAM**

By Elaine Holcombe

The Rangeley Region Guides' & Sportsmen's Association's Junior Guide program for 9-12 years old celebrated its 26th year offering a fun and challenging indoor/outdoor nature program for youngsters in the area.



The groups enjoyed mentored fishing on the Kennebago Lake, studied and researched Maine mammals curiously looking at their skulls and pelts. Fly tying and casting experts taught the boys and girls how to tie a fly and use a fly rod to catch a trout. A bonus this year was learning how to make a paracord bracelet which can be very important in a survival situation.

First Aid was well presented by a parent of one of the students. Paddle boarding and information on safety with a variety of water crafts were presented by the BMC diving team.

The finale was a trip to Mount Blue State Park and Nature Center where Rangers Bruce Farnham and Jaime Cantin

presented challenging activities on survival as a hiker and camper in the forest. Then everyone headed for the water!



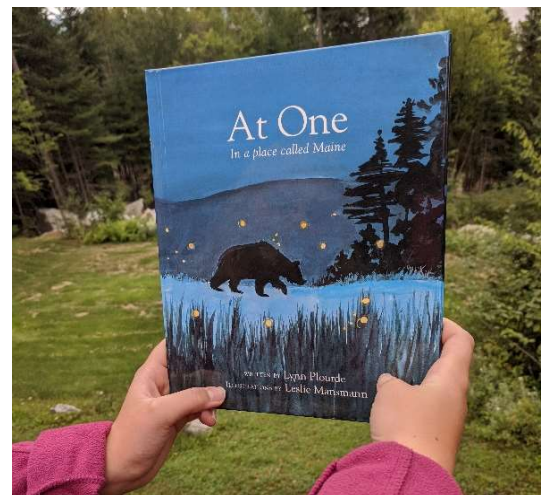
We're so grateful and appreciative for all our volunteers and expert presenters who help make our Junior Guides program such a unique and successful experience.

Pre-registration is mandatory and will take place in the spring of 2023. We expect to repeat our new schedule of two days per week for three weeks. Please contact Joyce Fay at 864-2651. For more information go to [www.rangeleyoutdoors.org](http://www.rangeleyoutdoors.org) or check out our Facebook page, @rangeleyjuniorguides, for more information.

### **STORYBOOK WALK**

By Elaine Holcombe

Once again, we presented a storybook walk using the Tim Baker Nature Trail behind our clubhouse in Oquossoc. This year, the story was *At One: In a place called Maine*.





This story celebrates the beauty and uniqueness of the wilds of Maine, from Baxter State Park to the crashing waves of the Atlantic Ocean. The author, Lynn Plourde, shares her outdoor camping experiences as well as her encounters with a bear and twin fawns in the summer as well as a moonlit cross-country ski in the winter.



Each year, the storybook walk is available from June to October. Come out and enjoy next year's at your convenience.

### **FISH FRIENDS**

One of the programs funded by our Fishing Derby is a program that teaches middle school students about the life cycle of salmon. Using an aquarium with a chiller, they observe their growth in the classroom.



In the spring, the class takes a field trip to release their work into the wild. Thanks to Rangeley Lakes Regional School for their involvement in the Fish Friends program. We hear that they intend to do it again next year!



### **JUNIOR GUIDES' SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM**

This year, we presented scholarships to two graduating seniors. Bristol Quimby received an award of \$1500. Lily Emerson received an award of \$1000.

As a reminder, RRG&SA continues to build our endowment in support of advanced education. See your renewal form for an easy way to contribute for these amazing young people.

### **RANGELEY SKEET and TRAP ASSOCIATION**

By Dave Kretzing, President RRSTA

2022 was a "rebound" year for the shotgun range. We welcomed back many old friends who share our passion for clay shooting with the never-ending quest to get better at breaking the flying clays. In addition, we welcomed a significant number of folks who have recently relocated or purchased property in the Rangeley area.

Please remember that your RRG&SA membership allows you to shoot at RRSTA member rates. At RRSTA, we shoot trap, skeet, wobble trap, 5-stand, and traditional sporting clays. A club member has made a very generous donation to the range. With this donation, the club will purchase some additional throwing machines to add some additional fun and challenges to the sporting clay courses in 2023.

You can check out our website [www.rrsta.org](http://www.rrsta.org) for further information about our 2023 events and shooting schedule.

## **RIFLE AND PISTOL RANGE**



Our Rifle and Pistol Range continues to be one of most-used resources. We estimate that we get more than 3000 person-visits to our range each year.

As you might imagine, insuring these facilities is a critical concern. In 2021 and 2022, we worked with our underwriters to better understand utilization and procedures. We appreciate all those who responded to our various surveys. We believe that our efforts put us in a good position to be able to provide such resources into the future with minimal cost increases.



We anticipate that for 2023 we will continue to operate the same way. Each participant needs to stop in to River's Edge to sign a release EACH YEAR. When you do, you will be given the gate code. Please observe the range rules and encourage safety and respect.

## **YOUTH HUNT BREAKFAST**

We held our annual Youth Hunt Breakfast on October 22. We had a strong turnout with youth hunters and their

families. They were treated to a terrific breakfast prepared by our volunteers.

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

By Jack McNulty

After a couple of very challenging years due to Covid, our very loyal membership has remained solid. Membership dues, the lifeblood of our organization has remained sound. Thank you everyone!

With help from our very generous sponsors, we were able to add a "Kids' Fishing Derby" this year. This event was a tremendous success. Hopefully our supporters will help us continue this event next summer and into the future.

Our organization is committed to investing in events and programs that benefit the community. The "Kids' Derby", in addition to our outstanding Junior Guides program, are just a couple of examples. We can only do this with financial support. Thank you sponsors!

The July 3rd in the Park was a fundraising success thanks to our investment in additional equipment. We sold a lot of "Guide Fries"! The Strawberry Festival, due to the terrible weather, had a much lower volume but still produced a positive fund-raising result. Thank you to all the volunteers!

We maintain a separate insurance program for the rifle and pistol range. In order to maintain pricing stability and keep this popular venue available for all our membership at a nominal cost, we implemented a more rigorous risk management process a year ago. Risk transfer agreements are now signed by all users every calendar year. This effort has allowed us to more accurately determine usage, and provide assurance to our underwriter that we are a sound risk. All of which has helped us maintain insurance premiums at a reasonable level. A special thanks to one of our members who gave our organization a very generous gift to help us defray the cost of this insurance.

Overall, we will finish the calendar year on the positive side. Our balance sheet remains sound. We are well positioned to continue our mission of promoting Rangeley's outdoor sporting activities.

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

We had another strong year of membership. We were slightly less than our record post-Covid year, but still very strong. We will finish 2022 with around 1050 members.



Our membership drive is also the largest source of funds for our scholarship programs. This year, we received more than \$2200 while granting \$2500. Thanks to all those who help support our scholarship program.

For 2023, expect to receive an email invitation to renew in late January and a paper renewal form in late February. Our membership year runs from January 1 through December 31. As a reminder, you can always point prospective members to the membership tab on our website where they can either print out an application or complete the process online. You can also direct them to River's Edge Sport Shop where they are always happy to take a membership in-person.

We expect our membership rates to increase slightly for 2023, \$5 more for individual and family memberships. It's been a very long time since these changed. We'd like to allocate the increase to make some accessibility changes to our clubhouse as well as some improvements to our shooting range.

If you have any questions regarding your membership, please contact us at [membership@rangeleyoutdoors.org](mailto:membership@rangeleyoutdoors.org)

### **2023 SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

For 2023, we plan on holding regular monthly meetings during our summer months. We hope to resume these meetings in May. When they resume, they will normally be held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month at 5:30 p.m., followed by a short business meeting and guest speaker, at the Clubhouse.

- May 15: Rifle & Pistol Range opens for season
- May 15: Shotgun Range opens for season
- May 18: Monthly Potluck Meetings resume for 2023 (tentative)
- June 1: Archery Range opens for season
- June 15: Tim Baker Nature Trail and storybook walk opens
- July 3: 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Park Event
- July 6: Kids' Fishing Derby
- July:10: Junior Guides begins, ages 9-12
- July 13: Strawberry Festival
- July 20: Annual Membership Meeting and Cookout at Clubhouse
- August 26-27: Shotgun Tournament
- September 21: Last Monthly Potluck Meeting of the Season
- October 8: Annual Turkey Shoot
- October 22: Youth Hunt Breakfast
- October 31: All Ranges Close

### **OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS**

At our Annual Meeting, we confirmed a slate of officers and directors for the upcoming year. Thanks to all of those who assist us in so many different ways.

If you are interested in helping out with a particular program or as a Board Member, please reach out. We'd love to have you with us.

The current leadership is shown below:

#### **The RRG&SA Board of Directors**

PRESIDENT: Dave Kretzing

VICE PRESIDENT – Scott Hatfield

SECRETARY – Elaine Holcombe

TREASURER – Jack McNulty

DIRECTORS:

Vincent Catrini,

Joyce Fay,

Patrick Hayden,

Nick Leadley,

Sam Spaulding,

Sonny Pierce

### **STAY CONNECTED ONLINE**

Stay up to date on the club activities by frequently visiting our web site: [www.rangeleyoutdoors.org](http://www.rangeleyoutdoors.org) or our Facebook page: [www.facebook.com/RangeleyRRGSA](https://www.facebook.com/RangeleyRRGSA).

